



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Statement from the Washington State Human Rights Commission on protecting the state's transgender persons

The Washington State Human Rights Commission believes that the Trump administration's reversal of federal protections for transgender students is a dangerous step backwards. Fortunately, here in Washington, we have legal protections in place for transgender individuals; in 2006, civil rights protections related to gender identity were passed into law, and in 2015 the Human Rights Commission clarified this law with administrative rules. Our law cannot be changed by the new federal guidance, and the Human Rights Commission will continue to enforce the law and to investigate cases of possible violations.

The Washington State Law Against Discrimination requires equal treatment of people regardless of protected class status, in the areas of employment, housing, places of public accommodation, credit and insurance. Protected class status includes gender identity, and schools are places of public accommodation. Thus, standing together with Governor Inslee and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Human Rights Commission will protect the rights of one of our most vulnerable populations, transgender youth.

The mission of the Washington State Human Rights Commission is to prevent and eliminate discrimination through the fair application of the law, the efficient use of resources, and the establishment of productive partnerships in the community. Under the law, everyone has the right to be free from discrimination at work, in housing, in a public accommodation, or when seeking credit and insurance. Any individual who believes that he or she has been discriminated against based on protected class status, including race/color, creed, national origin, sex or pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or military status, disability, use of a service animal, HIV/Hepatitis C, marital status, familial status (housing), breastfeeding (public accommodation), and age (employment), may file a charge of discrimination with the WSHRC by visiting our website at www.hum.wa.gov and filling out an Intake Questionnaire.

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